

### Remarks

Claim 21 and 32 have been amended to include the further limitation that the oxidizing in the primary oxidation zone is at a lower temperature than the oxidizing in the staged oxidation zone. Support for this limitation can be found in applicants' disclosure on page 13, lines 18-21.

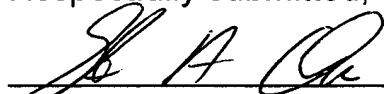
### Conclusion

The application is in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejection(s), remove all rejections, and pass the application to issuance.

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Respectfully submitted,

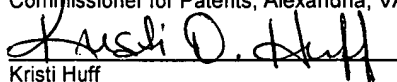


Steven A. Owen  
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8/23/2005  
Date

#### CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper(s) referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:  
Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

  
Kristi Huff

8/24/05  
Date